

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

March 18, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Discussion of Troop Withdrawals
and Vietnamization

It is imperative for diplomatic and other reasons that all follow the same principles concerning discussions of planned withdrawal of U.S. forces from Southeast Asia. The following principles govern:

- (1) My comment at my March 4, 1971 press conference that our withdrawals will continue at the present rate referred specifically to the current increment. It is not to be construed in any way as a decision or directive applying to the entire withdrawal schedule.
- (2) In April I intend to make my decision as to the next increment of withdrawals. Until I announce that decision there should be no speculation either on or off the record on the size of the increment or the length of time it covers.
- (3) There should be no speculation whatever about the rest of the schedule.

Each of you should take the necessary steps to insure that every member of your department or agency scrupulously carries out these instructions.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY



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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
SUBJECT: Comment on Troop Withdrawals

Attached is a memorandum from you which will unequivocally direct that there be no further speculation on the rate of future troop withdrawals. It directs that there be no comment on the next increment until after you have made your announcement in April.

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that you sign the memorandum to the Secretaries of State and Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

Attachment

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